

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07257 080856Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 VO-05 INR-10
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 771
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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STADIS//////////

FOR HA/ORM

E.O. 11656: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: ESTIMATES OF BOAT REFUGEES IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES

REF: STATE 143859

1. INCLUDING 189 ARRIVALS YESTERDAY AND 61 BEING LANDED TODAY, THERE ARE 414 BOAT REFUGEES IN HONG KONG/MAKAU WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN INTERVIEWED BY INS. OF THIS NUMBER, WE ESTIMATE THAT 30 PERCENT WOULD BE CATEGORY I, 5 PERCENT CATEGORY II, 20 PERCENT CATEGORY III, AND 45 PERCENT NON-CATEGORY.

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2. REGARDING FUTURE ARRIVALS HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT THOSE MEETING CATEGORY I CRITERIA WILL INCREASE GRADUALLY. EACH REFUGEE WHO IS RESETTLED IN U.S. CONFERS POTENTIAL CATEGORY I ELIGIBILITY ON RELATIVES IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM OR STILL IN INDOCHINA. WE EXPECT THAT PERCENTAGES GIVEN ABOVE FOR CATEGORY III AND NON-CATEGORY WILL HOLD IN FUTURE AND THAT

PERCENTAGE FOR CATEGORY II MAY DECREASE SLIGHTLY.

3. THERE ARE NO THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMS IN HONG KONG/ MACAU EXCEPT FOR CANADIAN PROGRAM OF UP TO FIVE FAMILIES MONTHLY. THIS PROGRAM NOT BEING FILLED SINCE FEW REFUGEES WANT TO GO TO CANADA, CANADIAN COMMISSION HERE IS NOT ACTIVELY RECRUITING, AND CANADIAN STANDARDS TOO HIGH FOR MOST REFUGEES. GIVEN LACK OF INTERNATIONALIZATION HERE AND LIBERAL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BOAT REFUGEE POLICY CONTINGENT UPON RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE WITHIN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, WE HOPE THAT NEW 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM WILL NOT RESULT IN PROCESSING DELAY FOR THOSE BOAT REFUGEES WHO WILL NOT MEET NEW CATEGORIES I THROUGH III. SEPARATE BUT RELATED IS CRITICAL ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, WHICH WOULD BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY ANY BUILT-IN PROCESSING STAGES OR DELAYS FOR HONG KONG REFUGEES.

SHOESMITH

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